

Websites for Historic Preservation and Related Topics

I. Introduction

The following handout offers some general tips about online searching and provides you with an annotated list of web sites about historic preservation and related topics. The list will hopefully point out some valuable resources that you can reference again and again, but it is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every available preservation web site.

The greatest thing about the internet is the speed at which you can find and transfer information. The danger (and often a fun part) of surfing the net is getting sidetracked from your initial query. If you do an online search for how to "preserve your roots" in order to find out how to archivally store your family history documents, you might instead learn how to supplement your income this winter by pickling parsnips. It's very helpful to know some basic search techniques so that you are sure to find the information you want in a timely manner.

Are you confused by terms and acronyms such as hyperlink, cookie, URL and HTML? Brush up on basic internet terminology or refer to one of these glossaries when you come across a new word. Both these sites have definitions that are easy to understand:

Fingertek Information Services: Glossary of Frequently Used Internet Terms:

<http://www.fingertek.com/glossary.htm>

Newbie U: New User University: Plain English Glossary:

<http://www.easynet.net.au/mirrors/newbie-u/peg/index.html>

A Search Engine is a web service for conducting a search of registered web pages for key words or phrases that you choose. Most of these search engines are very fast, but could find thousands of matches for a search query. For best results, try to be as specific as possible when choosing your key words or phrases. Search for an unusual keyword first. Pick combinations of keywords that can eliminate sites that match one but not both of the key words.

For more information about search engines and searching the internet, try one of the following links:

http://wp.netscape.com/escapes/search/tips_general.html

<http://www.google.com/tour/services/query.html>

Search Engines to Try:

Google <http://www.google.com>

Lycos <http://www.lycos.com>

Yahoo <http://www.yahoo.com>

II. List of Websites

National Organizations

American Antiquarian Society	http://www.americanantiquarian.org/
American Association of Museums	http://www.aam-us.org/
American Association of State and Local History	http://www.aaslh.org/
American Farmland Trust	http://www.farmland.org/
American Institute of Architects	http://www.aia.org
American Planning Association	http://www.planning.org
American Society of Civil Engineers	http://www.asce.org/
American Society of Landscape Architects	http://www.asla.org
Archaeological Institute of America	http://www.archaeological.org/
Association for Preservation Technology Int'l	http://www.apti.org/
Land Trust Alliance	http://www.lta.org/
League of Historic American Theaters	http://www.lhat.org
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	http://www.sed.uga.edu/psa/programs/napc/napc.htm
National Association of Olmsted Parks	http://www.olmsted.org/
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers	http://www.ncshpo.org/
National Parks Conservation Association	http://www.npca.org/
National Trust for Historic Preservation	http://www.nationaltrust.org
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northeast Regional Office• Forum Online (for Forum members)• Library• Main Street Center	http://www.nationaltrust.org/northeast/index.html https://forum.nationaltrust.org/ http://www.lib.umd.edu/NTL/ntl.html http://www.mainst.org
Partners for Sacred Places	http://www.sacredplaces.org
Preservation Action	http://www.preservationaction.org/
Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS!)	http://americanart.si.edu/art_info/sos.cfm
Society for American Archeology	http://www.saa.org/
Society for Commercial Archeology	http://www.sca-roadside.org/
Society for Historical Archaeology	http://www.sha.org/
Society for Industrial Archaeology	http://www.ss.mtu.edu/IA/sia.html
Society of Architectural Historians	http://www.sah.org/
Trust for Public Land	http://www.tpl.org
United States Lighthouse Society	http://www.uslhs.org/
Urban Land Institute	http://www.uli.org/
Vernacular Architecture Forum	http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/
Victorian Society of America	http://www.victoriansociety.org/

Federal Government

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	http://www.achp.gov
Americans with Disabilities Act	http://www.ada.gov/
Department of Housing and Urban Development	http://www.hud.gov
Library of Congress	http://www.loc.gov/
National Archives & Records Administration	http://www.nara.gov
National Endowment for the Humanities	http://www.neh.gov
National Park Service	
• Main Site	http://www.nps.gov
• CRM Bulletin	http://www.cr.nps.gov/crm/
• Grants & Tax Credits	http://www.cr.nps.gov/helpyou.htm
• HABS/HAER	http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/
• Heritage News Online newsletter	http://heritagenews.cr.nps.gov/
• Heritage Preservation Services	http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/
• Nat'l Ctr for Pres Tech & Training (NCPTT)	http://www.ncptt.nps.gov
• National Register of Historic Places	http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm
• Preservation Briefs	http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm
• Secretary of the Interior's Standards	http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/overview/using_standguide.htm
• Teaching with Historic Places	http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation	http://www.nw.org/network/home.asp
PreserveNet, legal section (links to H.P. laws)	http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu/legal.html
U.S. Census Bureau	http://www.census.gov/
U.S. Congress	http://www.senate.gov/ http://www.house.gov/

International Organizations

DOCOMOMO	http://www.docomomo.org/
ICOMOS	http://www.icomos.org/
UNESCO World Heritage	http://whc.unesco.org/

MA State Government

Community Development Finance Corp.	http://www.mcdfc.com/
Community Economic Dev. Assistance Corp.	http://www.cedac.org/
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	http://www.mass.gov/envir/
Massachusetts Archives	http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm
Massachusetts Commonwealth Museum	http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mus/museum/index.htm
Mass Dept of Conservation and Recreation	http://www.mass.gov/dcr/index.htm
Division of State Parks and Recreation	http://www.mass.gov/dcr/forparks.htm
Division of Urban Parks and Recreation	http://www.mass.gov/dcr/metroboston.htm
Mass Dep't of Housing and Community Dev't	http://www.mass.gov/dhcd/about/default.htm
Massachusetts General Laws	http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/

Massachusetts Historical Commission

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/>

Massachusetts State Building Code

<http://www.mass.gov/bbrs/code.htm>

MA Local/Regional Organizations

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission <http://www.nps.gov/blac/>

Boston Preservation Alliance <http://www.bostonpreservation.org/>

Boston Society of Architects <http://www.architects.org/>

The Bostonian Society <http://www.bostonhistory.org/>

**Cape Cod Commission
(example of Regional Planning Commission)** <http://www.capecodcommission.org/>

Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc. <http://www.edithwharton.org/>

Essex National Heritage Area <http://www.essexheritage.org>

Grants for Historic Preservation <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2hispres.htm>

Hancock Shaker Village <http://www.hancockshakervillage.org/>

Historic Boston, Inc. <http://www.historicboston.org/>

Historic Deerfield <http://www.historic-deerfield.org/>

Historic Northampton <http://www.historic-northampton.org/>

Historic Salem <http://www.historicsalem.org/>

Massachusetts Historical Society <http://www.masshist.org/>

New England Museum Association <http://www.nemanet.org/>

New England Historic & Genealogical Society <http://www.newenglandancestors.org>

Old Sturbridge Village <http://www.osv.org/>

Peabody Essex Museum <http://www.pem.org/>

Plimouth Plantation <http://www.plimoth.org/index.html>

Preservation Massachusetts <http://www.preservationmass.org>

Preservation Worcester <http://www.preservationworchester.org/>

Schooner Adventure <http://www.schooner-adventure.org>

Schooner Ernestina Commission <http://www.ernestina.org/>

Historic New England (formerly SPNEA) <http://www.historicnewengland.org/index.htm>

Springfield Preservation Trust <http://www.oldsomesnewengland.com/Trust/index.htm>

Trustees of Reservations <http://www.thetrustees.org/>

Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) <http://www.waterfrontleague.org/>

Examples of Local Historic District/Historical Commission Sites

Brookline Preservation Commission <http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/Planning/Preservation.html>

Cambridge Historical Commission <http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/>

Lowell Historic Board <http://www.historiclowell.net/>

Newton Historical Commission

<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Planning/historical.htm>

Other Sites

Accessible Environments

<http://www.adaptenv.org/>

Association for Gravestone Studies

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/>

Barn Again!

<http://www.agriculture.com/barnagain/>

Center for Understanding the Built Environment

<http://www.cubekc.org/>

Cyburbia, urban planning portal

<http://www.cyburbia.org/>

Great Buildings

<http://www.greatbuildings.com/gbc.html>

Lighthouse Preservation Society

<http://www.maine.com/lights/lps.htm>

Massachusetts Cultural Council

<http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/>

Old House Journal Online

<http://www.oldhousejournal.com/index.shtml>

Planning Commissioners Journal

<http://www.plannersweb.com/>

PreserveNet (general HP info)

<http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu>

Preservation Directory

<http://www.preservationdirectory.com>

PreservationWeb

<http://www.preservationweb.com/>

Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse

<http://www.sprawlwatch.org/>

Traditional Building

<http://www.traditional-building.com/>

UNH, Historic USGS Quad Maps of MA

<http://docs.unh.edu/towns/MassachusettsTownList.htm>

VT Heritage Network, HistPres Bibliography

<http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/hpr4.html>

World of Old Houses

<http://www.oldhouses.com.au/>

Listserve

MassHistPres Listserve

The Massachusetts Historical Commission, with the help of UMass-Boston, has developed a free email list for historic preservation in Massachusetts. Over 600 people across the state are subscribers. It is an incredible resource for the sharing of information, ideas, questions and experiences related to historic preservation in Massachusetts. If you are interested in joining this list, you can subscribe by visiting: <http://mailman.cs.umb.edu/mailman/listinfo/masshistpres>

Forum-L Listserve

Membership only national listserve for preservation issues. Join by joining the National Trust for Historic Preservation's professional Historic Preservation Forum: <https://forum.nationaltrust.org/> They'll send you a password and username that you can then use to log on and sign up to join the Forum-L listserve.

HUDUser Listserve

Sign up online or just view postings at <http://www.huduser.org/emaillists/pdremail.html>

This resource list was originally compiled for the 1999 Massachusetts Historic Preservation Conference by Jeffrey Harris and Sarah Burks. The list has been updated and expanded and all websites have been checked to be current. --S. Burks, Preservation Massachusetts HD/HC Committee. September 2006